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### The Appointments.

It is absurd to suppose that the people of this town will not accept, and gratefully too, good and efficient government at the hands of Mr. GEORGE B. McCLEL-LAN, if he can give it to them. There is certainly nothing to be gained by unreasoning and baseless abuse of Mr. McClellan's appointments. So far as they have been disclosed they are those of honest men and it will be time enough to attack the appointees when it is seen that they are betraying the offices to which they have been assigned. Besides, fair play is a jewel.

The Proposal to Extend the Interstate Commerce Commission's Powers.

We print with much pleasure a criti-Executive encroachment, submitted by | ing of the rainy season next spring. An the chairman of the railroad and trans- early rainy season may leave the crop portation committee of the National Mr. ROBERT W. HIGBIE of this town.

The proposed amendment embodied in the Quarles bill and in the identical Cooper bill in the House practically But the estimated output of these other reverses the present operation of the sources of supply is, approximately, law. It makes the Interstate Commerce 2,500,000 tons, a surplus so excessive Commission, instead of the judicial that material increase in prices for the tribunals, the court of first instance Cuban planter is virtually out of the which, on petition and after a hearing, question. fixes the rates for transportation of perdiscrimination or unreasonable charges | may save some of them from ruin, but are alleged by the customer. Its decisions are to be subject to review by the inordinately rich as a result of it. regular courts on appeal; but on the appeal, of course, the burden of proof is transferred from the customer to the

This is the proposed aggrandizement of Executive power and functions to which we called attention as an important and significant step. We termed the same Executive encroachment. So it is. If Mr. HIGBIE will examine again more closely our remarks on the subject he will find, we think, nothing misleading in our use of the word "encroachment." He seems to have assumed rather hastily that the Executive encroachment we had in mind was upon the Legislative department, and partook of the nature of usurpation of the powers of Congress. But there is no question of the power of Congress to legislate in the direction proposed, provided the act is held to be constitutional, which seems probable in view of recent decisions of the Supreme Court. As to the legality of the exercise of increased power by this Executive commission, in case the Quarles-Cooper bill becomes law, there is no difference of opinion between Mr. HIGBIE and our-

The Executive encroachment to which we referred, and which our esteemed correspondent misunderstands, was not a usurpation of legislative power. It They imagine that, single handed, they spoke of it thus:

"The proposed amendment and the consequent outside of the established judiciary are likely to be studied closely in Washington, unless, indeed, all questions of Executive encroachment on the functions of the Judicial department, have ceased to be of interest."

Mr. HIGBIE will perceive, also, that we have discussed the proposed amendment, not upon its merits as a measure of additional protection for the vast interests which his association and numerous allied organizations represent, but only with reference to the present tendency toward government by commission and the regulation of prices by central authority.

In the inevitable and everlasting clash of interests between the common carrier and the customer there are rights and wrongs on both sides which should engage the most intelligent consideration of the makers of the laws.

There are countless abuses, however, which might find their simplest and promptest remedy if the country could be brought to view without solicitude the wholesale transfer to the Executive by act of Congress of powers now properly belonging either to Congress or to the Judicial department.

# The Condition of the Sugar Market.

It was generally believed that the reaults of the Brussels convention would be a reduction of the European beet sugar output and a consequent enhancement of sugar prices in the world's market. This has, however, found only a partial realization.

The beet sugar crop of Europe for the last season is more than 1,000,000 tons below that of its predecessor. The new system has also resulted in a very considerable increase in European domestic consumption. To a considerable extent, therefore, the menace to cane sugar interests which previously existed in Europe's beet surplus has been materially modified. So effective has been the change in European conditions that Hamburg does not this year fix the prices in the American market, as it has for many years past.

The normal result of this limited competition in our market would have been an increase in the price of cane sugar. From this expected increase the Cubans looked for an advantage greater than that derived through the reciprocity treaty with the United States. Other conditions remaining as they were, the possible advantage to cane producers, a result of the abolition of European punties and drawbacks on beet sugar, ould have amounted to about forty ents a hundred pounds, while the ad vantage to Cuba from the reciprocity treaty would have been nominally thirty.

four cents a hundred pounds. Obtaining the full advantage of both, Cuban planters would have been benefited to the extent of nearly three-quarters of a

cent a pound for their product. But the advantage hoped for through the reduced production and increased home consumption of European beet sugar has been lost through a notable increase in the production of cane sugar in the different tropical sources of supply. Europe, still producing a surplus of beet sugar, can take none of this increased cane output, and the United States becomes the principal market in which the cane sugar can find a possible sale. The deficiency in beet sugar being practically offset by the increased cane supply, prices in the American market are not materially affected. Notwithstanding the reciprocity arrangement, January shipments of raw sugar from Cuba are offered at 2.15 cents per pound, ex duty, as against a 2.06 cents quotation of last February.

The demands of the United States on the crops of the present season will approximate 2,650,000 tons. Of this, nearly 1,000,000 will be duty free, from domestic sources, approximately as follows:

	bourded, approximately us rolle
1	Tons.
0	Louisiana
	Domestic beets
	Porto Rico125.000
	Hawati
В	Total

It is estimated that the Philippines will supply about 125,000 tons. The cism of our remarks of Monday on Cuban crop will depend upon the openat about 800,000 tons. A delayed season Wholesale Lumber Dealers' Association, might well run it up as high as 1,100,000 tons. According to conditions in Cuba, our requirements from other countries will vary from 500,000 to 800,000 tons.

The small advantage given to the it is very doubtful if any of them become

## Will Colombia Fight?

If a majority, or even a large minority, of the Colombians were as well informed and as intelligent as is Gen. REYES they would not contemplate attacking the Republic of Panama, which the United States, through its Executive, has promised to protect. As a matter of fact, notwithstanding the exemplary efforts made by the Liberal party to promote public education during many years preceding 1886, the Colombian people, as a whole, know very little of the world outside of their own boun- Constitution of the United States." daries. The fact that their forefathers managed to defeat the attempt of Spain to hold them in subjection is regarded as conclusive proof of Colombia's invincibility. It is true that Spain, having but partially recovered from the prolonged and exhausting struggle against Napoleon, proved unequal to the task of quelling the simultaneous uprisings of Mexico, Central America and all the Spanish speaking provinces of South America. The task was far more difficult than that which confronted England in 1776, and that Spain failed to perform it is not in the least surprising.

That is not the view of history taken by the mass of Colombians, however. was clearly enough described when we worsted Spain; and as, in their traditions, Spain looms up as the mightiest of Powers, they assume that they could extension of the power of a quasi-judicial body beat the United States with comparative ease.

An invasion of the territory of Panama. in the teeth of our declaration that we should defend that republic, bears witness to the inability of most Colombians to comprehend the magnitude of our resources. Their ignorance has been exhibited in a pitiful way by selecting for attack an island which, obviously, can be surrounded and commanded by our war vessels now stationed or cruising in the neighborhood of Colon. The Isla de los Piños, upon which a few Colombian soldiers have landed, lies in the Gulf of Darien, but has always been recognized as belonging politically to the Department of Panama. It is said that the large detachment of troops which embarked on the gunboat Cartagena is bound for the island of Old Providence, which belongs to the Colombian Department of Bolivar. As the last named island lies about three hundred miles northwest of Colon, its value as a base of military operations against the Isthmus is not obvious. The selection of islands as the points from which Panama is to be attacked shows, first, that the Colombians themselves regard as impracticable a march overland through the jungle, and, secondly, that they have no conception of the number of war vessels which we now have, or can easily assem-

ble, in the Caribbean. The fact is that the squadron commanded by Rear Admiral Coghlan already comprises the cruiser Atlanta, the Mayflower, the gunboats Bancroft and Nashville and the Prairie. On their way to Colon are the cruiser Olympia and the gunboat Castine. At Culebra, not far away, is the squadron commanded by Rear Admiral BAKER, which includes four battleships, the Kearsarge, Alabama Illinois and Massachusetts, and the cruisers Scorpion, Culgoa and Leonidas On the 12th of December, the cruisers Newark, Detroit, Gloucester and Montgomery of the South Atlantic squadron left a Brazilian port for the West Indies. The battleship Texas is near Key West, the gunboat Newport is at Santo Domingo City and the Vixen is at Guantanamo. So much for the naval force which is now, or quickly may be, available on

the Atlantic side of the Isthmus. It is possible that, in their curious preference for insular bases of operations. the Colombians may try to occupy one or two of the islands in the Bay of Panama. It may be well, therefore, to note what warships we now have or can presently place on the Pacific coast of the threatened republic. The fleet commanded by Rear Admiral GLASS comprehends the cruisers Marblehead and the secretary of the Board of Education, the dep-

boat Concord and the collier Nero. The cruiser New York has been ordered to Panama, and the gunboats Bennington and Petrel are on their way thither. The torpedo boat destroyers Preble and Paul Jones, now at San Francisco, will follow as soon as they receive their complement of officers. Were it deemed necessary, the squadron under Rear Admiral GLASS could be reenforced with a detachment from the fleet now in Hawaiian waters, which includes the battleships Kentucky, Wisconsin and Oregon and the cruisers Albany, Cincinnati, Nanshan, New Orleans, Pompey and Raleigh.

In the face of these facts, it will be clear to Gen. REYES that, since SANCHO PANZA's outburst of enthusiasm over the prospect of ruling an island, nothing more humorous has been witnessed than the Colombian selection of insular bases for operations against Panama.

Mr. Shafroth Sees Stars. Representative SHAFROTH of Colorado is not so busy defending his title to membership in the Fifty-eighth Congress against the contest made by the Hon. R. W. BONYNGE that he has not time to attend to his other duties. He has already amended the Constitution by extending the suffrage to women and now he is going to rebuild the national ensign to fit a plan which he has devised. The present flag is too simple, too plain. too commonplace, in Mr. SHAFROTH'S opinion, and he would have it so arranged that any person could tell at a glance that there was something complicated and involved about it.

Mr. SHAFROTH's scheme is to make the field of the flag a square of blue, onethird of the length of the fly on a side. He would place a circle of thirteen stars, representing the original States, in the field. Then within this circle he would place thirty stars, representing thirty States, themselves forming a star with would be placed temporarily on a straight line, one on each side of the centre of the interior star. Upon the admission of a new State he would place three stars sons or freight in cases where unjust | Cuban planters by our reciprocity treaty | within the encircled star of stars, in the form of an equilateral triangle. Upon the admission of another new State he would rearrange the inside stars into the form of a square; and so on, the design being a circle of thirteen stars surrounding all the other stars.

One of the highest recommendations Mr. SHAFROTH's plan has is that each State could identify its star. His bill

"The representative stars of the thirteen original States shall be identified in this field by presuming the first star to the right of the apex of the interior star to represent the first State to ratify the Constitution of the United States (Delaware), and proceeding to the right around the circle the remaining stars shall represent the other original States in the order in which they respectively ratified the

Vermont, the first admitted State, would be represented by the star at the apex of the interior star. The next star to the right would represent Kentucky, and so on, in the order of their admission, each star would represent a State. Thus a patriot could know which particular star he was most attached to, and for which he should most readily give up his life. The dying hero, with his last breath would cry out, supposing him to be an Ohio man: "Fourth star counting from the apex star of the interior star, going to the right, I die for you!"

Mr. Shafroth's plan is an ingenious one. There is nothing particularly graceful in the designs he suggests for its present form, for many years. Would it not be well for him to leave it unchanged until he has settled his account with Mr. BONYNGE?

The School Teachers and Red Tape.

The patience of the school teacher is proverbial. From the first classroom experience to the last, a pedagogue learns continually to repress his passion, to suppress his natural desire to boil over in indignation. A lost temper means lost control, and, finally, a lost job. Ambition and the instinct of selfpreservation unite to keep within strict bounds the temper of the men and women who instruct the young. Because of this, the teachers are looked upon as beings superhumanly endowed with for a long time to come. patience, and there is a common belief that a schoolmaster couldn't "get mad" even though he might try. All the more amazing will it be to learn that teachers can and do become angry. It takes only what they call the "red tape" of their duties to rouse them, and when they are roused they require careful handling, just as other folks do. Witness this request, issued by C. H. HARD-RIDER, the secretary of the Milonian Society of Brooklyn:

"All persons having any opinion as to whether education is now in danger of strangulation by red tape are requested to state succinctly and inlanguage fit to print the definite reasons for their belief or the specific Items of clerical work which may be dispensed with for the benefit of the proper work of the school."

Only one well acquainted with the fury that a contemplation of the horrors of "red tape" fans in a teacher's breast would have known the necessity of inserting that phrase "language fit to print." One beyond the scholastic wall would have hesitated to write it; and the result, if teachers were to write in unedited language their thoughts, might be found

very entertaining. Secretary HARDRIDER'S notice was decided upon at a meeting of the Milonian Society, held at the Teachers' Club in Brooklyn, Saturday evening. Principal JUSTIN PLACE read a paper on "Red Tape." He told of one principal kept so busy writing reports and filling out blanks that he could spend only thirty minutes a week in the classrooms. Another counts himself fortunate if he can get ten minutes a day in the classrooms. Mr. Place gives this list of persons who now send letters, requests,

directions and orders to the principals: "The district superintendent, the division superin tendent, the city superintendent, the superintendent in charge of trusney, the superintendent in charge of St. Louis exposition, the director of music, the director of drawing and manual training, the director of sewing, the director of cooking, the director of physical training, the supervisor of lectures Boston, the monitor Wyoming, the gun- juty superintendent of buildings, the committee on

care of buildings, the superintendent of school THE DEUTSCHE KOLONIALHAUS. supplies, the chairman of the committee on sup plies, committee on evening schools, the attend-

Enough to madden the sweetest tempered principal, and some of them are very active! Mr. PLACE says:

"One man at Fifty-ninth street has such a prolific circular generator within him that he lays one daily, and on Sundays he lays two. When a school mar gets the mail he counts on a circular from this official as sure as sunrise."

"Fifty-ninth Street" is to the teacher what "Mulberry Street" is to the policeman. It means headquarters. Mr. PLACE believes that there is either too much clerical work, or the teachers think there is, and that anyway it has produced bad effects in the schools. Here is his opinion:

" I feel that much of our reporting, like our estimates of supplies, our repetition of the names of teachers each month on the superintendent's formidable report, and our invoice of paper and books on hand, is never looked at. Unproductive labor is irritating. I believe that most of the clerical work required of teachers is trritating for the same reasons. Another cause of objection, I taink, is a feeling that cierical work is uneducative to the worker. It is drudgery, it shows no progress, it suggests a narrow rut, it increases the possibility of discoverable error and chances of being corrected In teaching we make errors, but many of them escape unnoted. In clerical work the error comes out in the proof, and no good reason can be given to justify the mistake. This is mortifying. We dislike to have put upon us any more work that implies the possibility of our being corrected. Most of us construe a correction into a reprimand."

And there is another reason why teachers object to "red tape," a reason more interesting than these. Mr. PLACE confesses that a systematic schoolmaster is an offence to him. Of such he declares:

"I find that I feel contempt for a schoolmaster who takes impressions of his letters in a tissue book and indexes them; my natural view of a teacher who sorts papers or letters in an alphabetical file is low. A principal who quotes the by-laws exactly four stars to an arm. Two more stars or keeps the minutes of the Board of Education, or is familiar with the educational chapter of the City Charter, is instinctively judged by me as small, pedantic, punctitious and lacking in force. This is a trace of the same feeling of contempt I used to feel for any teacher who looked in a dictionary or encyclopædia. We think we ought to be above all this."

Are all the systematic teachers held in contempt by their fellows? The answer will be in the letters in "language fit to print" that Mr. HARDRIDER expects to receive. They will be interesting documents, though they lack the spice of language unfit to print.

### The Hon. A. J. Warner on the Gold Standard for China.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: China and Mexico can do what a number of other countries have done, agree to give silver for gold at a given ratio, if any one is willing to give gold for silver; and they can agree to pay debts to foreign countries in gold, but that will by no means secure "a fixed ratio between the moneys of the various gold standard and silver using countries of the world," as claimed in Secretary Hay's report to Congress respecting the purpose of the commis sion sent to China. If our commission makes any such representations to China it will only mislead; and blunders of that kind, besides being unnecessary, are very costly and inexcusable. Neither Mexico, nor China, nor Russia, nor Japan, with India thrown in, can establish and permanently maintain a stable ratio between gold and silver or a "stable par of exchange.

There is one way, and one way only, by which a stable ratio and a stable par of exbetween the different countries of the world can be established and maintained: and that is for nations-not silver countries alone-having such a preponderance in the trade of the world that they can, by agreeing to receive either metal at an established ratio in the settlement of balances, increase the use of either, chiefly for money purposes, to correspond with its increased supply relathe flag. It has done good service, in tively to the other metal. In other words, it is a question of maintaining an equality of ratios between supply and use of the two metals. If the supply of one metal increases faster at a given time than the other, its use must be made to increase in like proportion This would follow an agreement among leading nations, or nations having a preponderating influence in international trade, includ ing both gold and silver countries, to accept either at a specified ratio. This ratio could he changed by agreement should any great change in the relative supply of either meta take place. Anything short of this will prove a blunder and will involve the silver countries that try it alone, sooner or later, in financial

difficulties. Asiatic countries like China and India cannot adopt gold currencies in their domestic trade, and it would be unsafe for such countries to substitute paper for silver. matic currency, susceptible of division into small pieces, has been their currency for ages, and will continue to be their currency

The silver question is therefore destined unless it is settled in a way to close it finally

A. J. WARNER. NEW YORK, Dec. 23.

Growls From Along the Erie, To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: When the first locomotive ran through the country in 1828 the time tables, such as they were, read some thing like this: "The next train will leave this station between the hours of 10 and 12 A. M. or as near that

So persons desiring to take the train must wait till it arrived; and then if it was late in arriving it was not unexpected. Why, then, should the Eric, in this advanced stage

time as possible.

of railroading, have their time tables read that a train will arrive at its destination at a specified time to the minute when the train does not reach there till half to an hour late, five out of six working days a week? would be a big improvement if they made their time tables state the time the train does

on these five days, and then if it gets in early or on regular time one day of the six, so much the better for its patrons ove is based on facts that the commuter of the Eric Railroad Company endure five out of

the six working days a week. A COMMUTER.

# A Shy at the King of Beasts.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Most peopleall the lion "king of beasts." The Spanlards, how ever, insist that he is a pretender. To test the matter, they put a lion and a bull into a big cage for a grand fight to a finish. The bull in two bouts knocked the lion groggy and sent him scrambling to the roof of the cage for safety, while the crow laughed and hissed.

A French journalist wrote a long account of the

affair, and wound up his story with the words "Now go tell the Spaniards that the lion, and no the bull, is 'king of beasts. And in his speech at Hanover the other night Emperor William went out of his way to take an-other fall out of the flon. It actually dared to tell his uncle, over the wire, that the Prussian eagle, and not the British lion, won the battle of Water and "rescued the English army from destruction.

Now let the lion roar. Let all good Britishers shout "Up, guards, and at 'em!" Corporal Flannigan s! Let the battle go on! NEW YORK, Dec. 23. Illustration is the characteristic of Harper's Magazine for January. There is color for Mr Howard Pyle, tint for Mr. Abbey's Shakespeare pictures, and plain black for others. Dr. Fred-erick A. Cook tells of the unsuccessful attempt to climb Mount McKinley, Mr. Bensusan has a illustrated account of the "S ave Market at Mara activity and Mr. H. H. Lewis a story of the hun

for derelicts on the ccean. There are severa

Stuart Phelps Ward being among the contributors and various pieces of verse.

s. Mrs. Wilkins-Freeman and Mrs. Elizabeti

The unique and costly house of one of the most remarkable societies in the world has just been completed in Berlin. The building is the home of the German Colonial Society and is to be known as the German Colonial

This society is a body of great enthusiasm and indefatigable energy with a membership of about 100,000, scattered over the country in every German town and city. For sixteen years it has been preaching its way into a position of powerful influence and great numerical strength-preaching to the German nation, in season and out of season, the necessity of the development of Germany's colonial possessions and the acquisition of new territories and new inter ests at every favorable opportunity.

It is a patriotic, unofficial, unselfish en terprise which has been doing everything in its power to advance colonial interests, from the building of steamboats for African lakes and the maintenance of experimental farms in the tropics to the selection and shipping of wives for German bachelors in the colonies. It has no counterpart and the work it has done has been unexampled in the history of colonial enterprise.

For several years the society's efforts received very cool support. The Government regarded it as a nuisance. The people thought the members were a lot of impractical visionaries. But about seven years ago a great change occurred in the feeling toward the society, and the growth of interest in it is well reflected by the increase in its membership from less than 18,000 in 1896 to 30,000 in 1899 and 100,000 at the present day. Next to the Emperor and the Government, it is now regarded as the mainstay of the colonial enterprises of the Empire.

The society gives hundreds of lectures in all parts of the country on the colonies their affairs and the best methods of develop ng them. It publishes a handsome illus rated weekly journal devoted to colonial opics. It gives information to emigrants subscribes to commercial and mining expeditions, offers prizes to colonial planters contributes to the support of the German school at Apia, publishes good books on the colonies which explorers are unable to bring out, helps students in the colonial school at nome and students of African and Australasian languages; and it has devoted itself with much success and without any impairment of dignity to the task of finding wives for German settlers in Southwest Africa and elsewhere.

The matrimonial branch of its work began in 1898, is still flourishing, and the society is perhaps the leading matrimonial agency in he world. Some disgruntled bachelors have complained that the society sends out too many tailoresses, shop girls and women from the cities, while they want women to milk the cows and work on the farms. The fact is, however, that of the several hundred strong, healthy young women of good character who have been sent to the colonies not one failed to get a husband; and up to ast August only six of them with their hus bands had returned to Germany. Colonial Society took the initiative in buildng up homes in the colonies, and its efforts

have been crowned with success. A large part of the new building in Berlin s devoted to another interesting enterprise The society early conceived it to be its duty to make the German people acquainted with colonial products, to stimulate a demand and create a market for them. At first it established centres in a number of the leading cities for the display and sale of colonial commodities, but this was found to be too expensive for the good results attained. The supply was too small to make a fine and representative display in each city, and it was difficult to manage the business so that only the best packed and shipped and best quality of goods would be exhibited. So this enterprise was finally centred in Berlin, and the colonial show, now free to all in the new "Kolonialhaus," is one of the sights

of the capital. The visitor may descend first to the cellar, where the groundnut oil in flasks and cans, the colonial beer and other l Palestine wines-there are many German settlers in the Holy Land-and all other commodities requiring a cool temperature are kept. Then there are large rooms where many wares are temptingly displayed, such as cocoa, chocolate, black tea, coffee, rubber, spices, honey from the German colonies in Brazil, and sixty kinds of cigars made from New Guinea and other colonial tobacco. All these goods are for sale. There are many other agencies for the sale of such merchandise; but the society's price on the best qualities is the current price throughout Germany, and it will handle nothing that is not of the best quality and is not packed in the best manner for market. In this way the society strives to make colonial goods popular and to create a good market for them. Then there are business offices editorial and printing rooms, reception rooms and maps, photographs and pamphlets galore for the seeker after all kinds of facts and information relating to the

It is an odd looking building, and perhaps it would not have the approval of the Architectural League: five stories high with a frontage of about 100 feet; with Moorisl pinnacles above the cornice and an Orienta dome surmounted by a colossal nucle black workman lifting a basket plentifully filled high above his head; with two stone elephants gracing the front; with heads on the portals of the central doorway, and the names of the leading colonies engraved on the broad spaces between the windows. The appearance of the house is certainly as unique as the society itself.

Any way, it is a monument to the courage and perseverance which have carried this society through from feeble beginnings to proud success, till it is recognized as one of the institutions of the country. Its great work has been to compel the attention of the people until their full interest and sympathy were enlisted in behalf of the great colonial enterprises of the empire.

Christmas Surf Bathing at the Golden Gate TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The Olympic Club, the foremost athletic club of San Francisco. has arranged that the members of the cross countr (tramping) section shall join in a tramp to the famous boulevard of the Golden Gate Park that faces the Pacific Ocean and there take a dip in the surf on Christmas morning.

This without doubt will interest your readers as

much as did the letter from that unfortunate who lately set up a grand wall in your paper because he did not find his expectations about San Francisc realized.

There has been a great influx of people to Call fornia in the last few years. San Francisco alone has gained in population within the last two years no less than 60,000 souls. Some of the newcomer nore than likely turned back disappointed, others will fail, but that the great majority have found some thing to do to their liking is proved by the fact tha house rents have advanced considerably and that And this in the face of an unprecedented amount

R. L. TOPLITZ, San Franciscan NEW YORK, Dec. 22. Draft at Sight on Senator Hoar's Learning.

of building, which still continues.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Before you get through with Senator Hoar please ascertain from him the period of gestation of a humming bird. ROCHESTER, Dec. 22.

> The Green Above the Red. She blushed benayth the mistletoe-Av coorse Ol wint ahead

THE QUARLES-COOPER BILL. The Widespread Movement to Amend the

Interstate Commerce Act. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I read with much interest the editorial in your issue of this morning, "The Next Step of Executive Encroachment," and I feel that your article is misleading in one or two points, besided being at variance with the facts in one or two others. Hence I venture to ask for a little space, because I know that THE SUN wishes t

treat everybody fairly. The power which the "Quarles-Cooper bill seeks to confer upon the Interstate Com merce Commissioners, namely, the power to fix rates, is a purely legislative function. Unti this power is conferred by act of Congress no encroachment by the Executive is possible If Congress, in its wisdom, sees fit to confer this power, it then becomes the duty of the Executive to execute this law in exactly the same way and in no other, as it is the duty the Executive to execute any law. Hence, if this proposed bill is enacted into law no encroachment by the Executive would then be possible. To this extent the title of your arti-

cle is misleading.

In the sixth paragraph of your article you say that this bill proposes to confer "dis-tinctly upon the Interstate Commerce Commission the power denied to the commission by a decision of the Supreme Court under the present law." This seems to be misleading to this extent: While it is true that the Supreme Court has decided that the present act to regulate commerce does not give to the Interstate Commerce Commission the power to fix rates for transportation of persons and property in interstate commerce, the Supreme Court distinctly held that the right of Congress to confer this power was unquestionable so that the situation would seem to be that this power is not denied to the commission, but that it has never been conferred upon them. As a matter of fact, the Supreme Court has no power to either deny or confer this power; that power is vested in the Congress

In the same paragraph of your article you "this power to be exercised, not upon the order of the courts, but upon the commission's own initiative." This is distinctly at variance with the bill, a copy of which I have before me. On the first page of the bill, in the third and fourth lines, we find the bill reads as follows: "That any order made by the Interstate Com-merce Commission after hearing and determination had on any petition, &c. So that it is not the purpose of the bill to give to the Interstate Commerce Commission any power of initiative in the regulation of transportation charges at all. Matters over which the Interstate Commerce Commission would have

Interstate Commerce Commission would have jurisdiction would only be brought before the commission on petition, or exactly in the same way that any civil suit is brought before any proper court.

In the next paragraph you say that the bill likewise "practically shifts the burden of proof from the complain ant to the corporation accused of unreasonable or unjustly discriminative rists." This seems to be misleading to this extent That no order can be entered by the Interstate Commerce Commission until a petition has been filed with the commission alleging that certain rates of transportation companies are for any proper entered by the Interstate Commerce Commission until a petition has been filed with the commission alleging that certain rates of transportation companies are for any proper cause unreasonable or unjustly discriminative, or until the commission shall have given notice of such petition to the transportation companies complained of; and then only after a proper hearing, at which both sides to the complaint may be heard, can the Interstate Commerce Commission enter any order. While it is true that the bill then provides that an order, which may be entered by the Interstate Commerce Commission, shall within a certain time become operative, the bill further provides, on page 3, lines 21, 22 and 23, that the Court may upon application and hearing suspend said order, so that the burden of proof is not unjustly placed upon any corporation accused of charging unreasonable or unjustly discriminative rates, for the interests of the transportation companies are fully protected.

As to the advisability or necessity for such legislation as is proposed in the above named bill. I do not ask at this time for any space for argument; but the fact that nearly two hundred national and State organizations are actively at work trying to secure this legislation, and that the Legislatures of eight States have already sent memorials to Congress petitioning for this legislation, ought at least to show that there are two sides to the question. Those of us who are in favor of the legislation recognize that The Bun is and has been consistently opposed to this legislation. To this we have no right to object; but we do feel that we have the right to ask that you give the facts exactly as they are, and this we believe you will be glad to do.

New York, Dec. 21. R. W. Highie.

#### Remarks From Pennsylvania on the Chicago Strike.

From the Harrisburg Patriot. By their behavior on Saturday the striking livery drivers of Chicago lost the sympathy thousands of friends but their conduct was but the logical sequence of the spirit of lawlessness, too often excused. if not actually instigated and encouraged by labor leaders who claim to be patriotic and law-abiding.

The Chicago drivers ought to lose their strike, because they have employed means to gain it that are abhorrent to every principle of freedom and popular government; but in the non-union driver of a hearse than to stone or shoot the non-union driver of a street car or a non-union miner of coal, and the persons who incite or excuse the mob which burns a breaker or explodes a bomb have no right to complain when a mob of strikers prevents the decent and orderly burial of their dead.

The principle that every man has the same right to work for wages and under conditions that are satisfactory to him as he has to refuse to work for wages or under condition that are unsatisfactory is so self-evident that it ought not to be necessary to state it; but more strikes have been lost through the alienation of popular sympathy because of the disregard of this fundamental law than from all other causes combined

From the Washington Post.
"I have never been very lucky in drawing seats said Representative Hepburn of Iowa. times my name has been among the last called but lately a friend has taken my old seat each time and kindly exchanged with me. But whenever am somewhat disgusted with the lottery," con-tinued the veteran, "my mind reverts to the drawing that took place when I first entered the House. I had extremely bad luck, and secured a seat clea around next to the wall on the left of the Speaker I was just thinking that I was mighty unlucky when I looked across the hall and near the cent aisle there was a head just visible above the railing that separated the seats from the rear space. I was a most disconsolate face that peered over th railing and scanned the House, and I recognized the man that I had beaten for the nomination and succeeded. "I'll bet that fellow," said I to myself would be mighty well satisfied with any this House, and at once ceased to feel sore over my luck. Now, when I have poor luck, I think of that face and my remark to myself, and accept whe

#### Go South, Young Man! From the Southern Field.

There is no dearth of opportunities in this country for young men. They are more plentiful and more easily availed of than at any time in the history of this country. The place for their development has simply shifted to new fields. While it is no longer possible to trade a pair of boots for the site of the city of Chicago, nor buy up square miles of mineral and timber lands in the North for a song, few generations hence stories of fabulous wealth based upon modest investments in the great unde oped South, will sound as apocryphal as many other sections in years past, which are nevertheles

# You Will Have to Study It Up for Yourselves

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir. You will con fer a great favor upon a number of Columbia Col-lege students who frequently argue about theology, and always read THE SUN, If you will set out briefly the very best reasons or arguments expert theologians (of many faiths) rely upon to sustain their dogma: (i) That God is just. (2) That hell is an eternal punishment by fire. That suicide is wrong. We will not argue with you over these reasons: we promise to argue them only among ourselves.

SUN WORSHIPPERS IN MODIFIED FORM.

Striking a Balance. \$ On Christmas Eve she sits in peace. Contented with her lot: She knows each present that she gave Cost more than what she got. TO PURCHASE FRIARS LANDS.

Contracts Signed in Manila-Purchase Price Is About \$7,240,000. WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.-The following statement was made to-day by Secretary

Root: "Gov. Taft telegraphs that contracts for the purchase of the Friar's lands were dalsigned yes erday afternoon. Provision for payment is that the Government shall use due diligence in the necessary surveys, examination of titles and sale of bonds, and consummate the purchase in a period not exceeding six months from the date of the contract. Unless the new survey shall materially differ from the Villejas survey the exact amount of the purchase money is \$7,239.784. There are about 391,000

by the President, Secretary Root and Secretary Shaw in regard to plans for the said of bonds of the Philippine Government, of bonds of the Philippine Government, and a recommendation to Gov. Taft will be made to-day by Secretary Root in regard to the matter. It is proposed to issue 4 per cent. bonds, under an act of the last Congress. In the past seven months a total of \$6,000,000 4 per cent. Philippine bonds has been sold, and the majority of them are now on deposit with the Secretary of the Transury to secure deposits of public the Transury to secure deposits of public secures. the Treasury to secure deposits of public money in na ional banks. It is hoped that the proposed new issue will meet with sim-

### ST. LOUIS EXPOSITION STAMPS. Postmaster-General Payne Approves the Designs.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 .- Postmaster-General Payne to-day approved the designs recently submitted by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing for a special issue of stamps in connection with the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. The stamps will be of the same size as the Columbian stamps issued during the World's Fair in Chicago. The series will consist of five stamps the one-cent bearing the head of Robert Livingston United States Minister to France, who negotiated the purchase of the Territory of Louisiana from that country; the two-cent stamp, the head of Thomas Jefferson President of the United States at that time; the three-cent, the head of James Monroe, who, as special envoy of the United States assisted Livingston in the negotiation of the purchase treaty; the five-cent, the head of President McKinley, who approved Government recognition of the exposition to be held next year, and the ten-cent stamp, a map of the United States showing the territory purchased from France.

Postmaster-General Payne considers the work on the special series the finest every the five-cent of the Rureau of graving and Printing for a special issue of work on the special series the finest ever turned out by the experts of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

## FAMOUS SHIPS OF OLD.

Reminiscences of the Collins Line TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In your Sunday edition of Dec. 20 you have an interesting short article, headed, "Fate of Ships Once Famous." You speak of the fate of the Adriatic of the old Collins Line, and say: The Adriatic was one of the most popular ship

sailing from New York in the transatiantic trade I remember this boat well. She never was popular vessel. She may have been across the ocean half a dozen times, but I doubt in I think she never made but one trip. The failure was due to the inefficiency of her engine, on which Mr. Collins spent about \$300,000 in alterations. Hers was an oscillating engine, and it never worked. On the first trip she made, and the only one I distinctly remember, a man—a draughtsman, not a practical machinist or engineer—was sent with the boat personally to supervise the working of the oscillating movement, and it was said this work had to be done by hand, the machinery being so imperfect. Next you say:

The Adriatic was very popular with passengers, one of the best and most comfortable boats of line.

one of the best and most coincrease beats of the line.

This statement is contradicted in my explanation of the first quotation. I think your error comes from confounding the names of the vessels of the Collins Line. You probably refer to the Atlantic of the same line, This vessel was successful. She was built on recognized lines, and ran for years, and was popular. The second vessel built was the Facilic of the Collins Line. After many successful trips, she left New York for Liverpool with a cargo and about fifty passengers, and was never heard of again. I knew one of the lost passengers. He was the manager of an operacompany, but I cannot, at this moment, recall his bame.

The third vessel of the Collins Line was the Arctic. She ran successfully for a long time. Arctic. She ran successfully for a long time, was an improvement on those previously made and was very popular. One summer she started for Liverpool with several hundred

made and was very popular. One summer she started for Liverpool with several hundred passengers, under Capt. Luce. Of the Banks a French steamer struck her, cut a big hole in her side, and down she went. Capt. Luce stood on the bow, with his son in his arms, and as the vessel went down he clung to some bits of flotsam, and he and his son were saved. A number of others also were saved. One of these was Theodore Izefeit (I spell from memory), who was a conductor of the New York Philharmonic Society.

The next, and last, vessel built was the Adriatic. She was supposed to be an improvement on the others, but, as I have already stated, proved a failure. The loss of the Arctic and the Pacific and the failure of the Adriatic to meet expectations broke poor Collins's heart and purse, and he died a poor disappointed man. He had made millions out of the old packet trade. When steam was in opposition to the Cunard-Line, and he had the satisfaction of being able to beat the Cunarders in almost every contest of spead and capacity. Collins's line was the only the American line then, and was subsidized by the American line then, and was subsidized by the American Government, but even this did not preserve the line.

Port Jenvis, N. Y., Dec. 22.

Polluting the Waters of the Bay

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: My attention has been directed to an article in your issue of De 21 referring to my address before the New Jerse Sanitary Association at Lakewood on Dec. 4. tention of sanitarians to the necessity of perfecting ome practical method of disposing of sewac other than emptying the same into tidewater. The peril affecting New York harbor results, of cours much more from the sewage of Greater New You than it does from the contemplated trunk sewe from New Jersey. The proposed Passale trun sewer will, at most, convey but one-tenth of the sex age which is now entering the harbor. The article in your paper, however, conveys the impression that I was complaining chiefly of that sewer and the one South Orange, Millburn, &c. I was then tall ing to New Jersey sanitarians and directing the attention to their own sins; but of course those of Greater New York will be responsible for the future enditions which I pointed out to eight or nine time

the extent. Likewise, I called attention to the evils on the Delaware; and for these the city of Philadelphia responsible to a much larger degree than the citie of New Jersey. I would be among the first to cl lenge the right of either New York or Philadelphi to complain because New Jersey adds her sma mite to the existing evils, so long as their own sin are so much greater. I did not by any means so that "the two great trunk sewers the State is plaining will dangerously contaminate the waters of New York Bay." &c. What I did say is that the combined sewage of Greater New York and the cities of New Jersey will eventually produce this result. When Greater New York's own hands are clean, possibly she may have the right to see equitable relief. In my opinion every effort should be made by New York, New Jersey and Pennsy vania, acting together or at least to the same en o devise some other sewage method.

The moral in my talk to the New Jersey Sanitar Association was pointed out to be the necessiti of immediately, establishing a State laborators to experiment on a working scale upon methods of sewage purification. Surely, my effort to brit about an end mutually advantageous to all shot not be used to prevent New Jersey doing wh New York is herself doing on so much larger scale. New Jersey has suffered a long time from the garbage of New York washed upon her beaches and is likely to suffer more in the future from the pollution of the waters of the harbor, due main to the sewage of Greater New York. When the comes for her to make effective a protest again this condition, I, for one, would have the State New Jersey in a position to demand relief with C. C. VERMEULE

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. "Red Saunders" will make the January num of McClure's Magazin; welcome to all his admirers, especially as Mr. H. W. Phillips's story is the first of a series. Miss Ida M. Tarbell's "History of the Standard Oil Company," this month deals with the fight for the seaboard pipe lines. Mr. Glackens admirable pictures distinguish "The Touch" Nature." Carl Schurz discusses the negro prob Mr. A. W. Rolke tells of "The Wild Animal Sur and there are short stories by Eden Phil Alice Brown and others.